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TAGS: PEPR, EG, IS, US, XF
SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS REVIEW: EGYPT CONDEMNS ISRAELI STRIKE IN IRAQ

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J.L. DATE 9/30/82
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TS AUTH. REASON(S)
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HIGHLIGHTS. NEARLY MONOPOLIZING MEDIA JUNE 8 ARE REPORTING AND COMMENTARY CONCERNING ISRAEL'S AIR STRIKE AGAINST IRAQI NUCLEAR REACTOR. EGYPT'S VIGOROUS DENUNCIATION OF THE ISRAELI ACTION, ISSUED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND

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(MOST EXCEPTIONALLY) THE PRESIDENCY, ARE GIVEN FRONT PAGE TREATMENT. AT PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY REQUEST, FORMIN ALI WILL PRESENT THE GOVERNMENT'S FORMAL REACTION TO THE ATTACK AT SESSION ABOUT LATE TODAY. (SEPTEL REPORTS EGYPTIAN POPULAR REACTION TO RAID.) YESTERDAY, ALI SPOKE TO THE ASSEMBLY ABOUT LEBANON, STRESSING NEED TO SETTLE LEBANESE CRISIS THROUGH NON-MILITARY MEANS. TRIPARTITE MFO TALKS BEGIN IN ISRAEL TODAY. SADAT'S MESSAGE TO MITTERAND CONTAINS INVITATION TO VISIT EGYPT. END HIGHLIGHTS.

1. PAPERS CARRY STATEMENT ISSUED BY OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY LAST NIGHT DENOUNCING THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON IRAQ AS A "PROVOCATIVE ACT DEVOID OF ANY LEGAL

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BASIS, WHICH VIOLATES INTERNATIONAL LAW AND CONTRADICTS THE SPIRIT OF PEACE". THE STATEMENT LABELLED THE RAID AN ESCALATION OF TENSION IN THE AREA AND HARMFUL TO PEACE AND STABILITY. IT ADDED THAT "THE ISRAELI AGGRESSION... HARMS THE PEACE PROCESS AND OPENS THE WAY FOR MORE OBSTACLES IN THE WAY OF PEACE...." (FBIS NC 082222).

2. MFO TALKS. PAPERS NOTE TODAY'S OPENING IN ISRAEL OF ROUND OF TRIPARTITE TALKS ON FORMATION OF A MULTI-NATIONAL SINAI PEACEKEEPING FORCE. EGYPTIAN DELEGATION IS HEADED BY AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL MORTADA, IN LIEU OF MFA UNDERSECRETARY AL BAZ, WHO WILL ACCOMPANY VP MUBARAK ON HIS TRIP TO FRANCE.

3. ALI. PAPERS COVER FOUAD ALI'S SPEECH TO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY YESTERDAY, IN WHICH HE DESCRIBED THE RECENT SADAT-BEGIN MEETING AS PART OF EGYPT'S EFFORTS TO TACKLE THE LEBANESE CRISIS. PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY APPROVED YESTERDAY A REPORT CALLING FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN

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FORCES FROM LEBANON. THE REPORT DECLARED THAT THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCE SHOULD BE MULTI-NATIONAL, ASSUMING IT IS NEEDED AT ALL.

4. OTHER NEWS.

--MINSTATE GHALI LEAVES WEDNESDAY FOR GENEVA ON A THREE-DAY VISIT TO ATTEND THE UN INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION. FRIDAY, GHALI PROCEEDS TO NAIROBI AS HEAD OF EGYPT'S DELEGATION TO THE OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS' COUNCIL MEETINGS THERE.

--AKHBAR EDITORIALIZES ON THE ISRAELI STRIKE IN IRAQ, WHICH IT CALLS "FLAGRANT AGGRESSION" AND IRRESPONSIBLE ESCALATION OF TENSIONS IN THE AREA. GUMHURIYYA FOLLOWS SUIT IN CONDEMNING THE ISRAELI ACTION. WENDT

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